

hair, Beatrice Pottei was always a striking
 and often a
 more than commonly handsome apparition—
 a fact that
 must have entered into and affected her
 approach to
 life The tone of personal ascendancy, even of
 domination,
 was inevitably hers, through the world, she
 moved with
 something more than ease She might
 disapprove she
 can never have been afraid of it

At sixteen, she accompanied her father to
 the United
 States, where she had a rather serious illness
 Then, at
 eighteen, she was plunged into London
 society, since—

"In the 'seventies and 'eighties, the London
 season, together
 with its derivative country-house visiting, was
 regarded by
 wealthy parents as the equivalent, for their
 daughters, of the
 university education and professional training
 afforded for then
 sons, the adequate reason being that marriage to a
 man of then
 own or higher social grade was the only recognised
 vocation for
 women not compelled to earn their own
 livelihood "

She went through it all,

*for presentation at Court, riding in the Row, calls,
 lunches and
 dinners, dances and crushes, Hurlingham and
 Ascot, not to
 mention amateur theatricals and other sham
 philanthropic excesses,"

realised the purpose of it all, carried on
 sometimes "with
 genteel surreptitiousness," sometimes with
 "cynical effron-
 tery", and has given an unforgettable picture
 of a world
 whose "occupational disease" is personal vanity,
 and whose
 most destructive poison is a cynicism about
 human rela-
 tions For six years, between eighteen and
 twenty-four,

she lived the life thought proper to the
young lady of
her age and social class, and lived it on the
best terms
it had to offer Six months in London for "the
season"
alternated with periods in the country and
abroad—six
months in one year for example, in the
Rhineland, another
six in Italy She saw what she calls "the idol
of personal